



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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LANSING

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State invites citizens to search for 2008 Christmas tree

LANSING – It may seem as if winter just loosened its icy grip, but the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) and the Michigan Association of Timbermen are already looking ahead to next winter and the holiday season.

DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe and association members are opening their annual search for the state's official Christmas tree. They are asking citizens to find beautiful trees and nominate them as Michigan's tannenbaum 2008. Once the perfect tree is found, the timbermen will cut it, load it onto a semi, and drive it to Lansing. There, DMB's Christmas Tree Crew will work with the Capitol facilities team and the Hi-Ball Company of Lansing, which volunteers a crane and crew to place the giant symbol of the holidays on the Capitol lawn.

"As families are traveling on their Michigan summer vacations, we hope they are on the lookout for trees that might deserve recognition as our next state Christmas tree," Webb Sharpe said.

To be considered, tree nominees must be:

- a spruce or a fir
- at least 65 feet tall with a maximum crown of 30 feet and maximum trunk diameter of 30 inches
- easily accessible from a road and away from wires
- available at no charge

The tree is officially lighted at Lansing's Silver Bells in the City celebration, which is set for Friday, Nov. 21. Last year, 120,000 people attended the event, which unveiled a green spruce donated by Katie Hamernick and Dan Caron of Gladstone.

Nominations are requested by July 1. Nominators are asked to send their name, telephone number, a high-quality photograph of the tree and information about its size and location to:

Christmas Tree Search
Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Facilities Administration, Building Operations Division
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909

Photographs and information may also be sent by e-mail to ChristmasTree@michigan.gov.

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